

SUMMARY

AB 2112 creates a statewide Office of Suicide Prevention within the Department of Public Health to study and address the crisis of suicide.

BACKGROUND

The State and Legislature have taken a variety of steps to improve access to mental healthcare and improved mental health outcomes. This includes the creation of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, an independent state agency established in 2004 by voter-approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act.

In their 2019 report on California's strategic plan for suicide prevention from 2020 to 2025, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) made a variety of recommendation to improve policies and outcomes statewide.

In their recommendations, the MHSOAC recommended that the state develop an Office of Suicide Prevention to create visible, state-level leadership on suicide prevention.

PROBLEM

The Legislature has made significant strides in suicide prevention, however, risk of suicide and self-harm remains an issue across our state. Suicide risk is especially acute among adolescents, older adults, veterans, and LGBTQ youth and adults.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24 in the U.S., with a nationwide survey finding in 2015 that 1 in 6 high school students reported seriously considering suicide in the previous year, and more than 1 in 12 reported attempting it.

While resources have been allocated to address this crisis, coordination of state resources has remained a challenge.

SOLUTION

AB 2112 takes a vital step in addressing the crisis of suicide by coordinating state resources into a statewide Office of Suicide Prevention. This Office will devote resources to studying this crisis, make recommendations to the legislature, and advise on best practices to ensure that statewide resources are used to properly affect the crisis.

By creating a statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, the legislature can target specific populations with greatest suicide risk to begin to address the root causes of the crisis.

SUPPORT

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (Sponsor)
American Academy of Pediatrics, California AFSCME
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Association of Community Human Service Agencies
Bay Area Children's Association
Board of Behavioral Sciences
Cal Voices
California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Behavioral Health Planning Council
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Children's Hospital Association
California Federation of Teachers
California Hospital Association
California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions
California Professional Firefighters
California Psychiatric Association
California School Nurses Association

California State Association of Counties
California State PTA
California Teachers Association
California Youth Empowerment Network
Children Now
City of Santa Monica
Community Action Partnership of Kern
Community Solutions for Children, Families and
Individuals
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
County of Santa Clara
Disability Rights California
Hathaway-Sycamores
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San
Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma
Counties
Kara
The Kennedy Forum
Larkspur-Corte Madera School District
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford
Marin County Office of Education
Mental Health America of California
Mulvaney's B&L
NAMI – Santa Clara County
National Association of Social Workers
NextGen California
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities
Coalition
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
Santa Clara Family Health Plan
Stanford Sierra Youth and Families
Steinberg Institute
Tessie Cleveland Community Services
Corporation
The Trevor Project
Wellness Together
Youth Community Service

STAFF CONTACT

Gavin White
Office of Assemblymember James Ramos
Gavin.White@asm.ca.gov
(916).319.2040